

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV336669268US, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 7/7/04

Signature: 
(Melody Almberg)

Docket No.: 291958124US
Client Ref No. P00-0033
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Office Patent Application of:
Robert A Weaver et al.

Allowed: April 7, 2004

Application No.: 09/733,608

Confirmation No.: 4198

Filed: December 8, 2000

Art Unit: 1742

For: APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING A
MICROELECTRONIC WORKPIECE AT
AN ELEVATED TEMPERATURE

Examiner: Sikyin Ip

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR ALLOWANCE UNDER 37 CFR §1.104(E)**

MS Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant has received the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance with the April 7, 2004 Notices of Allowance and Allowability regarding the above-identified application. Entry of the Statement into the record should not be construed as any agreement with or acquiescence in the reasoning stated by the Examiner. Each of the claims stands on its own merits and is patentable because of the combination it recites and not because of the presence or absence of any one particular element.

The Examiner's Statement was not prepared by Applicant and only contains the Examiner's possible positions in one or more reasons for allowability. Thus, any interpretation with respect to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be imputed to the Applicant.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 291958124US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

John M. Wechkin

Registration No.: 42,216

PERKINS COIE LLP

P.O. Box 1247

Seattle, Washington 98111-1247

(206) 359-8000

(206) 359-7198 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant